

St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net APRIL 30, 2023 † FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From The Pastor

The image of the Good Shepherd is one of the most common and beloved of all Christian art. The image of the Good Shepherd evokes a sense of security and protection in the comfort and constancy of the Lord Jesus. Jesus himself is the Good Shepherd who invites all to himself to find the surety of faith in the goodness of Divine acceptance that promises eternal life.

Who we follow and what we believe makes a difference in who we become. Committing ourselves to know and love Jesus will secure us in the peace of all he promises. Knowing and loving Jesus is confirmed in the words and actions of our lives that imitate his example. We are not followers simply to join the crowd interested in benefiting from all Jesus offers. To know and love Jesus is to understand and accept his Divine and human nature for the purpose of our redemption. This reflects the image and understanding of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the Gate open to us that reveals the Father's love and desire to unite us to the Divine Self.

This is not a back of the line tag along kind of relationship. A mature believer will desire to know deeply the One they seek to follow. Faith is a relationship of love, built on trust that holds the possibility to transform our lives in the model of our Shepherd. It serves the meaning and purpose of a life directed in love and compassion for the sake of others. In today's world, this is not a commonly chosen path. This is why the image of the Good Shepherd is one of protection and safety against the deceptions and disorder that constantly surround us.

The world is filled with voices and images that seek our attention and allegiance. In a consumer, money driven culture that offers every kind of pleasure, convenience and satisfaction, a follower of Jesus must be prepared to choose carefully who and what to follow. The world will entice us to a position of control, power, and money to secure ourselves against vulnerability or the threat of being left behind. These are the lies Jesus refers to for those who enter the sheepfold other than through the Shepherd. Those who climb in some other way are thieves and robbers who enter only to scatter and disrupt the sheep for the sake of their own enrichment.

Noticed the personal care Jesus holds for the sheep. The Shepherd knows his sheep and they know Him. They know his voice as He calls them by name and leads them in safe pastures. Jesus knows each of us infinitely and loves us eternally. How does Jesus know us so well? He made us; we belong to him. Jesus lives in us, and we live in him. He gave his life for us so that we may be one with him.

The love and unity God desires for us is perfectly given in the Holy Eucharist. Today we have the privilege to witness the First Communion of three of our youngest members. Today they receive for the first time the Body and Blood of Jesus in this most personal way. Both their parents and catechists have spent time and effort to teach these children who Jesus is and what it means to receive him in Holy Communion. These young followers will continue to need ongoing support and encouragement to know and love Jesus more fully. They will encounter many other things in the world that will appear more interesting, attractive, and easier than the time and commitment it takes to grow in faith and love for Jesus. This is a constant tension for all of us.

The Eucharist is the food of love. It serves as a daily nourishment to sustain our strength and commitment to realize the presence of the Lord and his saving help. It is no accident that Jesus chose bread and wine as the reality to convey his constant presence to us. We need daily food to sustain us in the activities of life to remain strong and healthy. For the believer, Eucharist is spiritual food that nourishes us in the Spirit and presence of Jesus now risen from the dead.

Why is Holy Communion the food of love? Notice the action at the Last Supper when Jesus gave himself to us through simple bread and wine. This was a meal of love, unity, and forgiveness as Jesus prepared for the Cross. He knew he was about to die and had great concern for those he loved who would be sorely tested in their grief. The Eucharist is the promise of Jesus to constantly remain with us. How does he do this?

Jesus transforms bread and wine into his Body and Blood. Body means person or self. Blood means life. Jesus gives himself, his life to us through the Eucharist we share. This is the mystery and promise of Divine love. Faith seeks understanding with love rather than doubt and a demand for full understanding. Can your parents perfectly explain how and why they love you so much? Would you doubt their love if you were not satisfied with their explanation? No. Love does what love is. Love gives itself for the sake of the other.

Today we have a group for First Communion and a group preparing for Confirmation. These Sacraments express their desire to follow Jesus. Each of us plays a role in helping these young people to follow Jesus with maturing love. In the Eucharist, realize God's love for you and be an agent of that love for others. Please pray for our youth. Father John Esper



DAILY MASS 8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

> Adoration on Tuesdays 8:45am to 10:00am

LIVESTREAMING

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website



ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721 Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm Friday - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday Noon-3pm or by appointment 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MONDAY, May 1, 2023 8:00am Mass: Sarah Esper† req. by Stan & Linda Yolkiewicz TUESDAY, May 2, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req., by Mom

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2023

8:00am Mass: Linda Lane (2nd R.A.) req. by Terry Lane THURSDAY, May 4, 2023

8:00am Mass: Kristina Maulding (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

SATURDAY, May 6, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Annabelle Malotke† req. by Martha Kehoe Richard Collins† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Peter Conway req. by Mom **SUNDAY, May 7, 2023**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Marcus Maulding (8th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba Rimantas Labieka (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

Douglas Hurston† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Richard Collins† req. by Bill & Sue Gordon and Todd & Karyn Bertolini

Bail Family req. by Dolores Bail Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy



April 30, 2023

Sunday:	Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,
	6 (1)/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn
-	10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn
-	10:22-30
Wednesday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25
-	and 27/Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
-	Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn
-	14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1
•	Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Join us to view and reflect on "THE CHOSEN"

Beginning with Season 2

Wednesday Afternoons through June 14 1:00pm in the Admin Dining Hall

This is a multi-season series about the life of Jesus.

All are welcome. No registration required.



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather, earthquakes and disasters

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally ...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests. Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally especially during this crisis. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen



Reminder:

Final pledge payments need to be submitted by May 31, 2023 for the CSA 2022 Campaign.

Thank you to all who made contributions. We exceeded our target and the excess will be returned to St. Vincent Ferrer for parish use.

The 2023 Catholic Services Appeal kicks off next weekend. The campaign materials will be arriving in your mail in the next few weeks.

Parishioners,

Both Dennis and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers after my husband's fall outside the church prior to Sunday's



Mass. To nurse Angela and the two others, Dennis is doing well. We are very fortunate to belong to a loving community parish.

Dennis and Pam

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I recently rescued a dog. She's a terrier and rather adorable. And she's crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I'm a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I'm hidden around a corner, she'll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the *voice* of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, **"They recognize his voice."** He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can.

> - Father John Muir ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	4 th Sunday of Easter		
Monday:	St. Joseph the Worker		
Tuesday:	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor o		
-	the Church		
Wednesday:	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles		
Thursday:	National Day of Prayer		
Friday:	First Friday, Cinco de Mayo		
Saturday:	First Saturday		
Next Sunday:	5 th Sunday of Easter	©LPi	

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Question: What does it mean if a Mass is offered "pro populo?"

Answer: This means it is offered for parishioners with no specific intention.

"Blessed Are They Who Mourn"

An afternoon of enrichment and fellowship is planned for Saturday, June 3, 2023 for any person who is involved in the grief process over the loss of a loved one. This afternoon will include a salad lunch, a time of fellowship, a presentation by Sister Sally Smolen, RSM, PhD, directed activity, and a prayer experience. Attendees are invited to bring a picture or an item that would memorialize your loved one.

Time: 12:30pm to 3:30 pm.

Place: Parish Administration Building.

Fee: A free will love offering and a salad dish to pass.

To register: call parish office (248)542-8720 by Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Cut to the Heart

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Everyone who has been married knows this feeling: you're in the midst of a disagreement with your spouse. You've really dug in your heels. You're ready to die on this hill. And you have the awful, heartbreaking realization that you are wrong. Whatever it is you're arguing about, you're wrong. You.

So where do you go from here? The only way forward is to own it. Fess up. Grab a fork and dig into that humble pie. It makes me cringe just to write about it, because it's the worst feeling.

I use the example of marriage because it's the one I'm most familiar with — my closest relationship, the one that teaches me the most about who I am and who God asks me to be. But this is a universal experience, and everyone — single or married, child or adult, lay or ordained — knows how badly it feels to realize that you're wrong. You're human. You messed up.

It is hard to recognize that the Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. It is painful to acknowledge the ways in which we are falling short, even as we strive to follow in Christ's example.

It can, in the words of today's reading, "cut to the heart."

But that feeling of despair is what propels forward motion. We have to allow ourselves to feel bad, that's the fertile ground of penitence. We are meant to have not just life, but life "more abundantly." Stasis isn't the goal. Baptism isn't the finish line.

Examining our conscience is hard. It cuts to the heart. It cuts to the truth.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." — Acts 2:38 ©LPi

Time To Make A Change

May 7, 2023, after Sunday Mass we will start weekly walks, weather permitting. Bring your walking shoes and meet us at the Gardenia entrance.

God is always willing to join you at the starting line, but never content with letting you remain the way you are. Jesus walked 39 miles to Capernaum to spread his message and more. Join us for a Jesus inspired walk at your own pace and distance. We know that regular physical activity is key to improving health, wellness, and spiritual wellbeing. It is also clear that there are mental health benefits as well. Most of us do not have a regular exercise routine. Most of our chronic diseases, heart disease, and cancers can be prevented or helped with a healthy diet and exercise. Therefore, we need to insert some regular walking or other forms of exercise into our schedules.

Let's encourage each other as part of a community to move more, sit less, and feel better!

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but if you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION May 6/7

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS May 7

Our Parish Nurse, Angela, will be checking blood pressures after the 9am Mass at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality next Sunday.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

GENUFLECTING & KNEELING

Question:

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting? Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during Eucharistic Adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar. ©LPi



Come and Pray the Rosary

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month May thru August Administration Bldg. Patio - 7:00pm

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them in praying the Holy Rosary on the Administration Building Patio. If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed at 6:30pm and the rosary will begin at 7:00pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

SPECIAL NOTE: Monday, May 8th, the second Monday of May, the Immaculata prayer group will be attending the May Crowning Prayer Service and praying the rosary in church after the service is ended. All are welcome to stay and pray with us.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

After his speech in Jerusalem, the crowds asked Peter, "What are we to do?" He replied, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ... and you will receive the Holy Spirit." How open are you to receiving the Holy Spirit?

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:20b-25

Peter teaches us as followers of Jesus, we are called to be patient when we are suffering. What value do you see in this practice?

Gospel: Jn 10:1-10

Jesus speaks of himself as the gatekeeper for the "sheep" (his followers) who are kept safe from strangers. When have you turned to Jesus in your life in times of trouble? ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

May 6/7, 2023				
Mass	8:00pm	9:00am		
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz		
Reader #1	P Miles	R Grant		
Reader #2	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz		
EME	T Riley	C McCarthy		
	R Pasiak	P Allen		
	M Simmons	R Grant		
Greeters	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba		
	L Proszkowski	S Bosetti		
	K Heffner	B Gutowski		
	T Pasiak	T Lane		

Getting to Know Our Saints...

Blessed Carlos Acutis



Patron Saint of Internet and Social Media & Patron Saint of the Eucharistic Revival

Carlos Acutis is the first canonized millennial. He was born in London May 3, 1991. His family moved to Italy after his birth, and there he grew up an only child. Like most boys, he loved football, computer games, and action films. He loved animals and had a lot of pets. Although his parents were not very religious, Carlos' faith brought them back to the Church. At age seven, he was given permission to receive Holy Communion. From that day on, he went to daily Mass. He would also spend time each day, either before Mass or after, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He said that the Eucharist was his "Highway to Heaven". He also had a great love for the Blessed Mother, prayed the rosary daily, and considered her the only woman in his life.

At age eleven, he received the Sacrament of Confirmation and became a catechist. He was popular at school, but he also made friends with the disabled and those children who were unhappy. He treated girls with respect and bravely defended the Catholic Church, especially in its pro-life stance. Among his many good works was going around the city giving food and money to the poor.

Also around eleven, he began to travel with his parents to Eucharistic miracle sights around the world. He developed a website of these miracles which is still on the internet. The International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles which he created travels around the world and has been seen in many parishes in the United States.

In 2006 at age 15 he became sick with what was thought to be the flu. It turned out to be a serious form of Leukemia. Within a week of his diagnosis, he died. He had a love for St. Francis and the city of Assisi which he had traveled to many times. He wanted to be buried there. When his canonization process began and his tomb was opened. His body was still intact. Now, placed in an open tomb in Santa Maria Maggiore Church in Assisi, Italy, he can been seen in his blue jeans and tennis shoes. Carlos was declared Blessed by Pope Francis on October 10, 2020, after the unexplained healing of a Brazilian boy was declared a miracle through Carlos' intercession.

The prayer for his canonization (below) can be found with other information at his official website: www.carloacutis.com/en/association/preghiera-ufficiale Videos about him can be found at https://carloacutisen.org/videos.html

FAMILIES PARISHES

MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073 SATURDAY-8:30 am and 4:30 pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30 am, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am 4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday) 6:30 am (livestreamed), 8:30 am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J) 50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM) SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen MON-WED & FRI- 9am - St. Justin

St. Mary 730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30 pm SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am WED - 12:10 pm

FINANCIAL

STEWARDSHIP				
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants		713		
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants		98		
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$	4,291.47		
Loose Cash /Check Collection		134.00		
Total	\$	4,425.47		
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$	9,340.46		
Energy	\$	160.00		

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Carlos Acutis

ACTOR

Oh Father,

who has given us the ardent testimony, of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis, who made the Eucharist the core of his life and the strength of his daily commitments so that everybody may love You above all else, let him soon be counted among the Blessed and the Saints in Your Church.

Confirm my faith, nurture my hope, strengthen my charity, in the image of young Carlo who, growing in these virtues, now lives with You. I trust in You, Father, and your Beloved Son Jesus, in the Virgin Mary, our Dearest Mother, and in the intervention of Your Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be



Help the sheep find the shepherd.



MISSION

I will listen and follow directions of my parents and teachers right away

BECAUSE VIBRANT



When wireless provider my introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and praverful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

National Day of

Thursday, May 4, 2023

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER







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